

REMARKS

Claims 10, 14, 18, 22, 26, and 27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 10 is amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the specification. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Applicants' Record of the Interview

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Malekzadeh at the interview held April 1, 2009, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

During the interview, Applicants' representatives and Examiner Malekzadeh discussed the applied references and the various novel features of the present application. Specifically, the following items were discussed.

First, Figures 3 and 5 were discussed with respect to the claimed "range of values" of claim 10. By this Amendment, claim 10 is amended to clarify that the range of values of V/G are one of the three ranges recited, not all three ranges simultaneously.

Second, "G" and its use of Kelvin as a unit was discussed. Specifically, because "G" is a "temperature gradient at a solid-liquid interface," the change in temperature that "G" represents may be expressed either in Kelvin or Celsius, given that one degree in Kelvin and Celsius represents the same change in temperature.

Third, Tmax was also discussed. In particular, Applicants representatives explained how none of the applied references teach a method where Tmax is a contributing variable. Indeed, none of the references teach the concept of Tmax, or in other words "a highest

temperature of the raw material melt at an interface between a quartz crucible inner wall and the raw material melt."

Applicants' representatives also specifically addressed the Examiner's assertion that paragraph [0041] of Kitamura teaches or suggests Tmax. As pointed out during the interview, Kitamura discusses in this paragraph the use of a double crucible structure so that "the change in the temperature of the melt in the inner crucible can be made small" and that "the temperature gradient of the melt in the inner crucible in a diameter direction will be extremely gentle." The concepts of "change in the temperature" and "temperature gradient" are not consistent with Tmax that is defined in claim 10 as "a highest temperature of the raw material melt at an interface between a quartz crucible inner wall and the raw material melt." Tmax is not a measurement of a change in temperature or a measurement of a temperature gradient but is a single temperature value. As such, Kitamura cannot be reasonably considered to teach or suggest Tmax as recited in claim 10.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: April 7, 2009

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